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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2050  
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 3393  
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY 0020  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 4585  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 001056

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/MTS AND AF/S  
TREASURY FOR OFAC  
SINGAPORE PASS TO SUSAN BAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EFIN](#) [ZI](#) [MY](#)  
SUBJECT: GOM QUESTIONS DESIGNATION OF MALAYSIAN DOCTOR AS  
MUGABE CRONY

REF: TREASURY PRESS RELEASE OF 25 NOV 2008

Classified By: Political Counselor Mark D. Clark for reason 1.4 (b and d).

11. (C) Malaysian Foreign Ministry Senior Under Secretary (Americas, EU) Zainuddin Yahya called in Polcouns for a November 28 meeting and raised questions concerning press reports that the U.S. had imposed sanctions on a Malaysian doctor, Mahmood Awang Kechik, who served as a physician for Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe. After reviewing the Treasury press release of November 25, which we provided, Zainuddin asked if the U.S. had designated Mahmood because of his provision of medical services to Mugabe or because he shipped medical equipment to Zimbabwe. Neither action would seem to justify sanctions, Zainuddin said. Polcouns assured Zainuddin that the sanctions were not related to Mahmood's role as a physician and that related shipments of equipment to Zimbabwe were not innocent commercial transactions but involved corrupt practices. Polcouns promised to provide further information on Mahmood if and when this became available. Zainuddin said the Foreign Ministry may encourage Mahmood to approach the Embassy with information "to clear his name."

12. (C) Action request: Beyond the wording in the initial press release and general documents on the Mugabe sanctions, Embassy requests cleared language that further characterizes Mahmood's actions related to the OFAC designation without going into sensitive details. Our ability to adequately explain the decision on Mahmood is important, not because of this individual case, but because it has bearing on the credibility of other U.S. current and potential sanctions determinations unrelated to the situation in Zimbabwe.  
KEITH